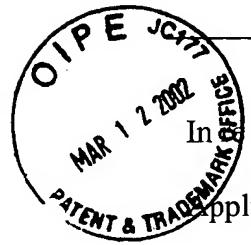


3731

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



In application of: Ronald E. DYKES

application No.: 10/016,984

Filed: December 7, 2001

Title: PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR SURGICAL  
INSTRUMENTS

Attorney Docket No.: 21917-P003US

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group: 3731

**PATENT**

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
(37 C.F.R. 1.8)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on the date indicated below:

Date: March 6, 2002  
Signed: Renée Glazer  
Name: RENEE' GLAZER

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56 AND 1.97(c)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form SB/08A, copies of which are attached, may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit these references in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to make these references of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these references indeed constitute prior art.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-referenced application. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 23-2426 (Order No. 21917-P003US).

Respectfully submitted,  
WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK, P.C.



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